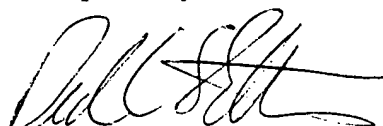


REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests consideration of this preliminary amendment. This amendment is made to amend claims 1, 4, 7, and 9, cancel claim 5, and add additional claims 10-28 to the application. No new matter is added by way of the present amendment.

The Applicant kindly requests that the Examiner telephone the attorneys of record in the event a telephone discussion would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully Submitted,



Derek C. Stettner
Registration No.: 37,945
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
Attorneys for Applicant
100 E. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202-4108
(414) 271-6560
Docket No.: 076437-9013

SCANNED # 14

MARKED UP CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A transporting accessory for a vehicle, the transporting accessory comprising:

a base frame mountable to the vehicle, the base frame having two support members;

a second frame having two extension members, each extension member slidably borne by a respective one of the support members, each extension member having at least one guide device and being movable along a path of travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position;

a carriage pivotally mounted to the second frame, the carriage having at least one arm, the at least one arm having at least one guide device, the carriage movable between a first, substantially parallel position and a second, inclined position; and

a transport support having at least one track, the at least one track slidably borne by the at least one guide device of the carriage, the transport support being movable along a path of travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position and positioned such that the transport support contacts at least one guide device of each [extention] extension member when the transport [device] support is in the retracted position.

4. (Amended) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 3, wherein the actuating mechanism is an electric actuator.

5. (Canceled)

7. (Amended) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 6, wherein the actuating mechanism is an electric actuator.

9. (Amended) A method of loading and unloading cargo into and from a transporting accessory for a vehicle, the method comprising:

mounting a base frame of the transporting accessory to the vehicle, the base frame having two support members;

positioning the cargo into a transport support of the transporting accessory[.];

activating a drive assembly a first time to move two extension members of a second frame of the transporting accessory along a telescoping path of travel with respect to the base frame between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position;

activating an actuating mechanism a first time to pivot a carriage and to move a transport support along a transport support path of travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position, the actuating mechanism being coupled to the second frame and [a] the carriage, the carriage being pivotally mounted to the second frame;

activating the actuating mechanism a second time to pivot the carriage to cause the transport support to move along the transport support path of travel between the second, extended position and the first, retracted position; and

activating the drive assembly a second time to move the two extension members along the telescoping path of travel between the second, extended position and the first, retracted position.

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